

kansas state

# collegian

monday, november 28, 2011



## GIFT GUIDE

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# Gift-giving guide for women: helpful tips to finding the perfect present



Lindsay Beardall

The holidays hit like a tornado and there's always the challenge of picking out the perfect gift for those near and dear. A monumental task is the "What should I get her?" question guys always need the answer to.

As for why this task is difficult for men, "There are many reasons," said Tim Gardener, resident of Independence, Mo. and Sales Associate of Macy's. "We worry. Is it too cheesy? Will her friends make fun of it? And of course there is price: is it too cheap?"

However, gifts for women do not need to be expensive or extravagant. In fact, it seems that the more thoughtful the gift is, the more impressive.

"I love getting flowers randomly from my husband. It means that he randomly thinks of me," said Shandi Hayhurst, manager of Loan Max in Manhattan.

As a woman who has received terrible gifts on holidays or birthdays, I'm going to give you some ideas, men of K-State.

Manicure/pedicure/spa gift card: Almost every girl will appreciate this. It's relaxing and fun. However, it can be expensive so we don't often treat ourselves and it is sweet when you think we deserve it and give it as a gift.

Gift cards for clothing, handbags, or jewelry: The old standby. If it seems too impersonal, write a note inside the card and say it reminded

you of something specific she mentioned like a new pair of jeans or top. It shows that you listen and care about what she needs which makes you look awesome.

CD of her favorite band or concert tickets: My friend made me a CD of songs that he thought I would like and even made a cover for it. Inexpensive and made me feel like he took the time to make me something special. This also works if you know a specific band she likes, you can order a t-shirt or poster online from its website. Concert tickets are also a great gift.

A movie or season of a show you've seen together: Maybe you remember the first movie you saw together or one of her favorites. Either way, you've already put thought into this gift, which is great. If not, you can get her a season or poster of her favorite TV show.

Body Lotion and/or Perfume: Check out her bathroom and find out what scents she likes. You can't go wrong with lotion or good smelling things when it comes to the ladies. Bath & Body Works is a good place to start.

Framed pictures: Completely underrated. Framing pictures of the two of you or family members is always appropriate and thoughtful. Snapfish.com has a way to create a scrapbook online and have it put together and shipped to you. Also, it means you, as a man, don't have to touch a piece of scrapbooking paper or stickers with cutesy sayings on them.

Bake her something: I know this sounds out of a man's element but there are really simple things that can be made like pretzels dipped in chocolate or melting chocolate and sticking pieces of peppermint in it



Lauren Gocken | Collegian

Turquoise jewelry is trendy gift to give to that special lady you know.

to make bark. You cannot go wrong with chocolate.

A giftcard for Eyes Lips Face or elf.com: Instead of picking out her favorite eye shadow as electrifying green, let her decide from a variety of well priced products online.

Electronics: Ipads, Kindles, iPods and other products are always a good choice for the she-reader or tech savvy chick.

The book "Porn for Women." If you know a married or older

woman (with a good sense of humor) in your life in need of a present this holiday season, this book is perfect. The pages are filled with gorgeous men doing household chores.

Steer clear of guessing which jewelry, clothing or handbags you think she might like. It's not worth the hassle of having to take the gift and receipt back to the store and pick out something else. When women's fashion is concerned, there are

varying tastes that make individual styles hard to predict.

However, guys, you're not alone in your struggle this holiday season. Women have a difficult time picking out gifts, too.

"I guess it's kind of hard to buy a present for anyone. I can never figure out what they want or if they already have something," said Emma Faulkner, junior in animal science.

Don't be afraid to ask her

friends about gifts ideas, they are a valuable database for her likes and dislikes. Put effort into your gift. Anything that proves it was thought about for more than 10 minutes is a home run in our book. So get to holiday shopping and/or making your gifts without fear.

Lindsay Beardall is a graduate student in animal science and industry. Please send comments to [edge@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:edge@spub.ksu.edu).

# Gift-giving guide for men: hints that assist in finding a great holiday goodie

Darrington Clark  
staff writer

When the holidays roll around at the end of another year, men find themselves in a fairly common problem: what gift they should get the girl in their life. Whether it's a girlfriend, sister, mother, or good friend, guys will ask the opinion of everyone they know to get a good idea.

Getting the perfect gift for your girl is notorious for being tough, but we usually forget that the ladies have it just as rough. Guys always go back to the perfume, roses or even jewelry if we can't find something very creative. What, however, can you default to if you're shopping for a guy? Finding the best gifts for the man in your life might seem a challenge, but having a bit of valuable knowledge can make the task a breeze.

Ladies shopping for men will find themselves facing three common problems. The most troubling problem of the three is shopping for the man who already has everything. When your brother already has the latest phone, or your beau already sporting the flashiest watch, what else is left?

Contrary to typical beliefs about guys' preferences, everyday items are actually welcome.

"Clothing accessories like scarves, watches, belts or wallets would make for a good gift," said Austin Strassle, senior at Ruskin High School and resident of Kansas City, Mo. "And every man needs a good razor set."

Clothing makes for a great holiday gift for the guy who has it all for many reasons. Nobody has all of the latest clothes and accessories, so there's a good chance



the most troubling holiday gift problem of all: What do you give the person whom you know or love the most? How many times have you wondered what to give to your best friend? How about the number of times a friend has come to you in distress, asking what they should get for their boyfriend or girlfriend? This seems like the hardest problem to overcome in the holiday time. As corny as it seems, guys appreciate simple, cheap and homemade gifts more than anything you could break the bank for.

"My girlfriend loves to make things," said PT Mahoney, senior at Belton High School and resident of Belton, Mo. "Gifts like that are the best, and neither of us have to spend any money."

When the holidays roll around this year, keep these tips in mind, and you'll be a master at getting the best gifts for the special men in your life.

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Solid-color, rubber-banded watches are a good gift for the hip man in your life.



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# Homemade presents share creativity, give meaning to gift-giving during holidays



Kelly Mchugh

When it comes to hand-made gifts, there are plenty of ideas ready to be tried. There are many ways to be crafty, whether it's sewing, knitting, watercoloring or scrapbook-ing. With the Internet and its resources for handmade gift ideas, one does not have to be artsy to give a good homemade gift.

Not only are handmade gifts a unique way to express how much you care about someone, it also keeps you from breaking the bank this holiday season. The measure of the time and thought put into a homemade gift cannot be bought at any store.

With numerous search engines on the Internet, all you have to do is type "crafting" and a cornucopia of websites offering ideas and advice are at your service.

While, of course, there are homemade gifts that could cost just as much to make as they would at the store, by using ideas and websites offered online, there are plenty of ways to save on needed craft items. If looking for things like frames or jars, dollar stores offer a great variety for a great price. If you are going for a rustic looking craft, secondhand shops are a handy place to start.

Melanie Simpson, owner of Front Porch Quilt Shop in Ozark, Ala., spent Black Friday in her store selling her many vibrant fabrics to customers looking to start new projects.

As Simpson leaned on her store's large, worn fabric cutting board, she said that she has seen a growth this year in people who are looking to make handcrafted gifts.

"People are getting more and more into wanting to do hand made things so that they can give something that's unique and share a part of their creativity with someone else," Simpson said.

Simpson also said many people come in to the quilt shop and share their gift ideas. A mother and daughter were in

the store looking for fabric to make quilts for their friends for the holidays. A young woman searched through the green fabric to find the perfect shade to make a purse for her best friend.

According to Simpson, using the Internet to search for creative projects and ideas has been a help to the growth of handmade gifting.

"Sharing your ideas and your creativity just spurs more ideas and people are able to feed off of each other," Simpson said.

Pinterest, a new craze among social-networkers, is one of many ways to find fun, cute and easy crafting ideas to give as gifts. 'Pinners' can find crafts from various websites and 'pin' them onto their boards. Most crafts show a picture of the item and, when you click on the link, offer directions to follow to make it. From spray-painting mason jars to making home-made jewelry out of every-day items, it has tons of unique ideas to fulfill your holiday gift-giving abilities.

Through people's 'Do It Yourself' and Craft pins on Pinterest there are an uncount-able amount of crafts with

making levels from simple to difficult waiting to be made and given as gifts. You could spend hours searching through the ideas and, most likely, will find something cool to make for almost everyone on your gift-giving list.

When you make a specific gift for someone you are forced to think about them; if their favorite color is blue, you are not going to use pink ribbons and if you are making a decoration for their country-style living room, you would not make something too metro looking.

A homemade gift is a gift that says, "I care enough about you and your taste that I took the time to think about it."

Time is money these days, and spending time on someone is a great way to show you really care.

"I would love for someone to make something handmade and give it to me for Christ-mas," Simpson said. "Because I can appreciate all the hard work that goes into them."

Kelly Mchugh is a junior in journalism and digital media. Please send comments to [edge@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:edge@spub.ksu.edu)



Photo Illustration by Evert Nelson

# Holidays are a time to donate to charities, help community



Holly Grannis

The holiday season is a time of gifting and giving - not only to your family and friends, but also to the people in your community who do not always have food on the table or a warm jacket for winter. It is rewarding for both the giver and the receiver to participate in the spirit of generosity.

There are several ways to help people and organizations in the Manhattan community during the holiday season.

Not having a winter coat could be grueling during the winter months. The United Way of Riley County is hosting a Winter Warm-Up Coat Drive, a charity where you can donate your unused winter coats to the families who cannot afford to buy their own. Donating unused winter-wear is easy and more helpful than you think. The last day to donate a coat is Nov. 30. Go to [unitedwayrc.org](http://unitedwayrc.org) for more information.

K-State's annual United Way

campaign is ongoing through Dec. 9. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$200,000 to support education, income and health programs in Manhattan. Any amount of donation is accepted. More information about the campaign can be found on the K-State website.

The Flintheads Breadbasket in Manhattan has a holiday program called "Adopt a Family" where you can donate warm clothes and necessary household items to families in need.

Also, a community fundraiser called the Mayor's Holiday Food and Fund Drive provides breadbaskets and necessities for families who do not have enough food to feed their family.

Both Flintheads Breadbasket events are ongoing through November and December. Go to [breadbasket.manhattankans.org](http://breadbasket.manhattankans.org) for more information.

Out of the kindness of your heart, take time to donate money, food or clothes to any organization or person in need during the holidays. It is a privilege to have all the required necessities in life therefore it is our obligation to share with people who are not as lucky.

Holly Grannis is a senior in sociology and mass communications. Please send comments to [edge@spub.ksu.edu](mailto:edge@spub.ksu.edu)

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# Christmas gift wrapping made easy in simple 7-step process

Lauren Gocken  
photo editor



Before you begin wrapping, you should assemble all your wrapping gear. The essentials for a simple and attractively wrapped present are: wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbons, a gift box, to/from tags, scissors and tape. Black Friday and the day after Christmas are great times to get wrapping supplies because they are usually 25-50 percent off.



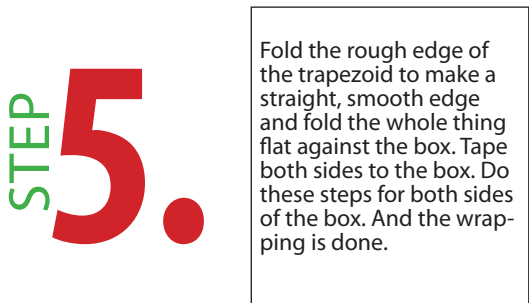
Wrap the gift in tissue paper and settle it in the box. You can use gift boxes to hold shirts and sweaters, as well as DVDs, video games and jewelry.



Lay your sheet of wrapping paper out. After you secure the top of the gift box with tape, flip it over on the wrapping paper. Tape one side of the wrapping paper on the box, then fold the jagged edge of the remaining side of paper and tape it to the box; fold the paper under so all you see is a smooth line. Fold the ends down flat against the side of the box so that little triangles are formed at the ends. You may need to trim a bit off the end so that the paper stops at the edge of the box.



Take the little triangles and fold them flat against the box. The remaining flap of paper that isn't pressed against the box will be a trapezoid.



Fold the rough edge of the trapezoid to make a straight, smooth edge and fold the whole thing flat against the box. Tape both sides to the box. Do these steps for both sides of the box. And the wrapping is done.



Now you can turn the box right side up. Cut at least a yard of ribbon, you can combine two or more strands to give the ribbon around the box a thicker look. Try to tie the ribbons into two knots—the kind you use to tie your shoe. For this step it's helpful to have a friend around to put their finger on the first knot while you tighten the second knot, otherwise the first knot tends to slip loose. The knots should make the ribbon tight against the box. Open your scissors as wide as they open and hold them in your hand, blades facing out. Hold a piece of ribbon against the blade with your thumb, with the non-shiny side on the blade. Now move the scissors swiftly up to curl the ribbon. Applying even pressure and not moving your thumb will prevent you from cutting yourself. Keep tying on ribbons around the original knot to make the curls as big as you want.



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